

ASTEIA SOCIETAS NEW SPECIES FROM TAHITI (DIPTERA,
ASTEIDAE)*

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I am describing below the only species of the genus *Asteia* which I have seen from the Society Islands. The separation of the glossy frontal triangle by a dull dark brown line on each side very readily distinguishes this Tahitian species from the three dark species occurring in the Marquesas.¹ Though I have not seen any other Tahitian *Asteia*, I have described a species of *Sigaloessa* Loew from Papeete.

Asteia societas, new species.

Male

Very similar to *A. tarsalis* in general habits and coloration, differing mainly in the yellow pleura, the differently colored frons and legs, and the more slender tarsi.

Head testaceous yellow, epistome with a broad white transverse band, center of face fuscous, upper two thirds of back of head black, frons dark brown above, the anterior margin brownish yellow, upper part of orbits and the triangle glossy, separated from each other by a dull dark brown line; antennae largely brownish yellow; palpi yellow. Frons a little longer than wide, narrowed slightly in front, with very slight indication of the typical lateral pale lines of the other species, the chaetotaxy as in *A. tarsalis*. Profile as in *A. dimorpha*. Arista with 6 or 7 free extremities.

Thorax glossy black, pleura yellow, apex of scutellum slightly brown. Chaetotaxy as in *A. dimorpha*, the two sternopleural bristles black. Legs, including the coxae, yellow. Tarsi not much thickened. Wings hyaline, venation as in the other species. Abdomen black, hypopygium yellowish. Halteres dark brown.

Female

Differs from the male in having the sclerites of the pleura mostly darkened in center, and the abdomen more elongate. Length 2-2.5 mm.

Society Islands: Tahiti, Fautaua Valley, September 11, 23, 1928, A. M. Adamson.

¹ Malloch, J. R., Additional new species and other records of Acalyptrate Diptera (Sapromyzidae, Drosophilidae, Ephydriidae and Trypetidae) from the Marquesas Islands: B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 114, 1933.

* Pacific Entomological Survey Publication 6, article 18. Issued November 15, 1933.